



# PRESS RELEASE

#04-192

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CALTRANS FASTTRACK METHOD GETS FASTER I-15 ROAD REHABILITATION AT DEVORE

**San Bernardino** - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced a new schedule today to replace aging concrete slabs on the I-15 in the Devore area. The work will start on October 3, with the contractor working continuously seven days a week, 24 hours a day until the paving portion of the project is complete.

The original schedule called for six weeks of weekday closures, Sunday night through Friday morning. High desert commuters questioned the weekday only proposal and asked Caltrans to shift or share the burden with weekend travelers. Caltrans new plan and goal, by working through the weekends, will be to compress the original six-week schedule to four weeks and finish by the end of October.

The new plan will balance the traffic impacts between the commuters and weekend travelers. Morning commuters will have three southbound lanes for the morning commute (4 a.m. to 9 a.m.) so they can get to work on time. Having the three lanes open in the southbound direction will reduce the estimated delay for morning commuters and provides the same number of lanes as currently available. Regardless, delays are still expected, so it is essential that travel occur during off-peak hours.

For the afternoon commute, at least two lanes will be available in each direction. Caltrans has the flexibility to change construction staging on a daily basis to accommodate peak direction traffic through the use of a quick-change moveable barrier system similar to what is used on the Coronado Bridge. This specialized equipment picks up the flexible barrier and moves it to a different position on the pavement with little disruption to traffic. The flexible barrier will be moved twice a day to accommodate peak directional traffic. This traffic-handling plan is subject to change if safety becomes a concern. Caltrans is committed to keeping at least two lanes open to traffic in each direction during construction.





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This new plan will provide substantial delay reduction through the construction site but still retain the benefits of the original project:

- Reduce inconvenience to motorists
- Increase pavement life up to 30 years or more. Closure of the whole roadbed allows us to use concrete reinforced with steel that will last twice as long as conventional concrete
- Improve safety and reduce exposure of workers to traffic. Working in a lane closure next to traffic is dangerous. There is no room for error.
- Reduce construction cost by 25% --Taxpayers are saving \$6 million by utilizing this method.

The shift to include weekends carries with it a risk of greater delays due to the number of vehicles that typically use the corridor. If traffic does not divert on weekends the delays will be excessive. In addition, discretionary trips during peak commute hours will increase traffic congestion and delay. Vegas bound travelers are encouraged to use alternate routes or other modes of transportation.

Detours by direction of travel:

- Southbound I-15 to the LA Basin and points south, use southbound I-215 to westbound I-10
- Northbound I-15 from points south of I-10, use eastbound I-10 to northbound I-215
- Eastbound I-10 to northbound I-15, stay on I-10 to northbound I-215
- Eastbound SR 210, use southbound I-15 to eastbound I-10 to northbound I-215

Caltrans is partnering with Victor Valley Transit Authority to provide increased commuter bus service – free to commuters during construction. They can be reached at (760) 948-4021. San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) staff will provide support for and encourage ridesharing. The link is [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info) or call 1-866-RIDESHARE. You can also call Caltrans 1-800-COMMUTE for additional rideshare information.

The Caltrans project website will post updated information regularly. Please visit us at [www.dot.ca.gov/dist8](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8) or call Public Affairs at (909) 383-4631. Safety is the #1 priority, so listen to the signs and **Slow for the Cone Zone**.

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